

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

ROYAL PROGRESSES to-day are not as they were of yore when they were meant primarily to signalise the power and majesty of the Crown and were occasions for much magnificence of display. Now they are the manifestations of the close and intimate ties that bind our Sovereign Lord the King with his subjects of all degrees, and of the keen interest the Head of the State takes in the lives and activities of all classes of his people. And if they partake something of a serious business tour of inspection for the Royal tourists, they have also their more agreeable aspects, affording, as they do, opportunities for Their Majesties to show themselves to vast numbers of people who, in the ordinary way, would have little chance of ever seeing them and at the same time enabling those who thus see them to gratify their desire to evince their loyal feelings to the Crown. Lancashire has its own special historical connection with the Crown in the Dukedom which is one of the King's titles and there could never be any doubt as to the character of the welcome the county and its famous towns would accord to the Royal visitors. If Lancashire has shown high courage and determination in facing the troubles and difficulties of recent years, its loyalty is of the same sturdy pattern and its welcome to King and Queen has been as thorough and cordial as one would expect.

THE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY (Greater London)—Stationery Office, 7s. 6d.—is a vast and comprehensive document which can only appeal to time for criticism or praise. Modern civilisation has got itself into a terrible mess. On the one hand, it has failed to develop the mind so that it may keep pace with material progress and the upshot of all our scientific efforts is that more and more their powers of destruction are being controlled by individuals of uncivilised mentality. On the other hand, it has proved materially incapable of catching up with its own inventions, so that they defeat their own ends. The multiplication of the motor car has reached a point when it contradicts its own purpose, the purpose of speed which, from the human point of view, is of extremely doubtful validity. There are so many mechanical vehicles on the streets that it may be difficult in central London to attain with the most powerful car an average speed of four miles an hour—the old horse buses bettered that on every journey. At present, in order to expedite traffic, we are allowing the most precious monuments of old London to be torn down and as a compensation, we are hampering every possibility of speed by our new and hideous buildings. The toll of dead and injured on the roads steadily increases, until it makes air-raids in Spain a merciful thinning of the population.

IT IS ENCOURAGING to know that Sir Edwin Lutyens, our greatest architect, acted with Sir Charles Bressey as consultant in the production of this report. Every now and then there is a flash of artistic genius, which calls up the possibility of a planned London. The inclusion of Park Lane, for instance, in the "ring" road which lies within the Park railings would create such a Boulevard as London has never seen. Again the formation of a dignified Plaza, a rectangular island with trees and spacious lawns at Hyde Park Corner would beautify one of the natural centres of London. How far the proposals made would facilitate traffic remains to be seen, for only the prophet can foresee the increase of population or possibly its decline and that multiplication of automobiles which must defeat itself. We have a long way to go before we catch up the United States with its one motor-vehicle to every four and a half persons and we may hope that, given the size of our island and its history, saturation point may be reached with not much more than one vehicle to 20 persons, the present ratio.

CAPTAIN VON MULLER'S lengthy explanation in the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of how the Kaiser was "deceived" into thinking that Britain would remain neutral in the Great War may satisfy the more credulous German public accustomed to accept as gospel anything it is told, but it is really too absurd to find much credence outside Germany. He is careful to point out that the conversation he has in mind is not that between King George V and Prince Henry of Prussia in December, 1912—a conversation fully reported in King George's letter to Sir Edward Grey published in the "British Documents on the Origins of the War"—but another that he says took place between King George and Prince Henry on July 25, 1914. In this conversation King George is alleged to have equivocally stated: "In the event of a European conflagration England will remain neutral." What Captain von Muller cannot and does not explain is how King George could make to Prince Henry two such very different statements, impossible to reconcile with one another, in 1912 and 1914. We have conclusive proof of what King George did say in 1912 in a letter which has happily been preserved, and that letter, too, is proof, if any proof were needed, of King George's recognition of his constitutional obligations to his Ministers. Is it conceivable that he should have been so forgetful of those obligations as to make the bald statement now attributed to him? At the time the conversation is alleged to have taken place the Great War had not even started, but the outbreak was imminent and there was clearly every chance of those "certain conditions" arising which King George

had specifically warned Prince Henry in 1912 might necessitate our intervention on the side of France and Russia against Germany.

THE RED INDIAN has been the subject of much interest and attention in Canada of late years. The Dominion has done notable work in maintaining the communities of the "Red men" and has placed many educational facilities in their way. It is now taking steps to ensure that the handicrafts in which the Red Indian excelled shall not disappear. The Department of Mines and Resources, which is responsible for the welfare of the Indians, has been giving a helping hand in the organisation of an Exhibition in British Columbia which is to be held in Vancouver from May 30 to June 9. All Red Indian agents and teachers at Indian day and residential schools in the Province have been asked to help in the collection of exhibits. The purpose of the display is stated to be to "represent the cultural development of the British Columbian Indians in relation to National progress in Canada." A substantial prize list has been established, the awards being given for every kind of handicraft work.

AN INTERESTING EXHIBITION of Early English Water colours is being held by The Fine Art Society in Bond Street. Many old friends are represented; Cox, Cooper, Gainsborough and Turner to mention only a few.

Francis Wheatley has three pictures, "Girl Hay Making" being a particularly charming study. It is always pleasant to see a picture by Leitch, and this example (No. 92), is in his best style and has a cool restfulness often lacking in his more highly coloured work. William Callow is well represented, he is delightfully fluent with his brush. Peter de Wint's "Still Life" is noteworthy, his landscapes are inclined to be heavy, being executed in a style more suited to oils.

This Exhibition accomplishes much in a small space and despite the absence of Cotman and Girtin is representative and varied.

"THE ZEAL OF THY HOUSE," by Dorothy Sayers, has moved to the Garrick Theatre, the cast with the exception of Lady Ursula, which is now played by Miss Ailsa Grahame, being much the same as in the Westminster Theatre. The play deals with the choice of an architect to rebuild Canterbury Cathedral and the subsequent happenings, how the architect defies everyone, including God, and is struck down by the Archangel Michael, and crippled for life.

The writing is vivid and dramatic and Dr. Harcourt Williams makes a great success of the principal part, while Mr. Fisher White is excellent as the Prior.

THE "FOLLIES OF 1938" at the Saville Theatre is a show with a swing. Like the curate's egg it is a mixture of good and bad.

One of the best items is "Little Lost Tune," a catchy song, delightfully sung by Roma Beaumont who is altogether bewitching. The

"Parliamentary Quartette" is another success, a witty bit of writing with a good tune. Those who like patter will enjoy the delightful nonsense talked by Oliver Wakefield who keeps the house amused while scenes are changed. He is clever and resourceful.

Of the less successful items "Nutty Nursery Rhymes" is pointless and Niela Goodelle's American style of singing does not really appeal to an English audience. "Courtesy Cops" is very funny, and the gardening song, a skit on the talks given by Mr. Middleton of the B.B.C., is one of the hits of the evening.

THERE IS A delightful production of "The Insect Play," by the Brothers Capek, at The Playhouse, which everyone should see. The first act is tiresome, the butterflies are boring creatures, but the second and third acts are absolutely first-rate.

The utter futility of the insects, and the waste of power by the warring ants is excellently brought out, and the acting throughout is good.

SIR OSWALD STOLL is presenting another Ice Show at the Coliseum, which should prove to be a great success. In "Engadine Express" the skill of the skaters and the originality of the settings combine to make a delightful entertainment. In "Symphony in Feathers" hundreds of ostrich feathers are used for fans and dress trimming, and as the skaters whirl about, coloured lights are played on them. The result is lovely.

To relieve the monotony of too much skating, the second act consists of music and comic scenes.

"PROFIT AND LOSS," by Nigel Balchin, at The Embassy Theatre, is a play with a moral; even in business, it seems, dishonesty does not pay. There was, however, the depressing corollary that honesty would not have paid either. William Goss, director of a firm of aeroplane manufacturers, had pursued a policy of complete incorruptibility for twenty-five years (a record so remarkable that it needed repeated emphasis in the play) but when a merger of rival companies drives him to the edge of bankruptcy he begins to tread the devious paths of unrighteousness. A "confidential adviser," an insinuating person, admirably played by Mr. Alan Wheatley, makes his appearance in the business; strikes and sabotage in the rival works follow, and finally Goss pays the price of his success in the disaster which overtakes the enemy.

The issues are presented mainly through the triangle formed by Goss, his daughter, and her husband, one of the directors of the rival merger. Miss Anne Firth plays an intense but effective Ronnie; and Mr. Douglas Jefferies, as the father, manages to make a convincing figure out of Mr. Goss, and plausibly to combine that stupidity in him which wholly fails to comprehend the artistic attitude of his chief designer, with those personal qualities which inspired the affection and loyalty of his employees. This is a play of dramatic moments rather than a dramatic whole, but it provides a lively evening's entertainment.

Leading Articles

THE CABINET CHANGES

THE re-shuffle of the Cabinet has been well received and Mr. Chamberlain was fortunate in the chance that brought Mr. Ormsby-Gore to the House of Lords. It has enabled him to make a change of Air Ministers without incurring any suggestion that he has been influenced by outside pressure. He supported Lord Swinton with the greatest loyalty and it may be that he is right in his belief that the outgoing Air Minister has accomplished all that was possible in making up for wasted years. The fact remains that the country is disappointed with the progress that has been made. Such disappointment was inevitable, even if a genius had been in charge, for this country has to face the nine stitches which one timely stitch in the past would have saved. Those whose complaints are the more vociferous are precisely those who applauded most loudly our disarmament. In those days it never occurred to them that they were cutting down a tree which needed years for its growth. Now they are furious because the acorn must have time before it can produce a trunk.

General Groves has an interesting letter in the *Daily Telegraph* in which he reminds Mr. Winston Churchill of certain fundamental truths which throw light on Mr. Churchill's suggestion "that a better agreement (with Italy) could have been obtained by a stiffer attitude on the part of Great Britain." He quotes one of F. E. Smith's finest aphorisms: "Persuasiveness in diplomacy marches hand in hand with reliance and adequacy in defence." As things are, our diplomacy is fettered by our aerial weakness and Mr. Churchill himself is largely responsible for it. In 1918 when the Air Staff proposed 40 squadrons for home defence, he, our first post-war Air Minister, left us with no more than three home defence squadrons. The combination of optimism and pseudo-idealism which dictated the policy of this country for so many years has left us a legacy of trouble and those whose duty it is to put things right are heavily handicapped in their efforts.

Yet the fact remains that the results achieved by the Air Ministry have failed to inspire the country with confidence. Lord Swinton does not belong to the type of those who advertise their virtues. Public opinion may very possibly have demanded more than a mortal Air Minister could give us. It was none the less alarming to find that the definite undertaking of parity

with the strongest air power had not been fulfilled. We are not concerned with building to some paper strength. It is our object to obtain such power that there will be no need for any such stiffening of our attitude as Mr. Churchill suggested. Our industrial capacity and our wealth make such a purpose attainable and it is no wonder that the discovery that we had not caught up, but were actually falling behind, Germany should have caused commotion. Many who are in a good position to judge feel that Lord Swinton was not so adequately supported by his collaborators as he might have been, and perhaps there may have been a tendency to rely on certain reputations rather than on accomplishment.

Sir Kingsley Wood has now undertaken the task of establishing the Air Force on the war level that peace demands. Lord Swinton in his letter to the Prime Minister says that a stage has been reached when the disadvantages arising from a change in Minister are greatly reduced. The Premier in his reply speaks of "the prodigious expansion of the R.A.F. and the country's capacity to produce aircraft, engines, equipment and trained personnel." He adds that the recent acceleration of our Air programme could not have started as it has done if Lord Swinton had not prepared in advance the plans necessary to carry it out. On the face of it, it might seem that the new Air Minister has very little to do except to reap where his predecessor has sown. In point of fact he has a gigantic task before him, which will make the heaviest demands on his organising ability and tact. It would be absurd to look to Sir Kingsley Wood for that commanding personality which breaks down opposition and harnesses enthusiasm. His successes have been of a quieter order and both in the L.C.C. and the Post Office he achieved results by a less spectacular attitude. Of his efficiency and zeal there can be no doubt, and it is to be hoped that he will impose his own common sense and keenness on a Department which should not yet have had time to tie itself up too tightly in the bonds of red tape and tradition. As the *Manchester Guardian* says, he "has a high reputation for getting things done, for managing people and for pulling divergent interests together." It is well that he should be seconded by so outspoken a critic of the Air Ministry and so experienced an airman as Captain Harold Balfour.

The other Cabinet changes call for little comment. It is satisfactory that Lord Halifax should remain at the Foreign Office. There was never a time when it was more desirable that the statesman responsible for our foreign policy should be in the House of Lords where he is not perpetually exposed to the burden of answering questions, so many of which had better never have been framed. Mr. Malcolm MacDonald will be able to bring to the Colonies the powers of conciliation which led to the agreement with Ireland, and the Palestine problem is one with which he is in a degree familiar. Mr. Walter Elliot's career has been rather disappointing. In the ungrateful post of Minister of Agriculture he has gained an undeserved unpopularity through his passion for organising the disorganisable. The

Ministry of Health will provide him with a more congenial task and there is every reason to hope that he will do justice to his undoubted ability. Lord Stanley's promotion to the Cabinet gives Lord Derby the high honour of two sons in the Cabinet, making the Stanleys equal in their political record to the Cecils and the Chamberlains.

THE RIGHTS OF ANIMALS

A MEETING is to be held in Saint Andrew's Hall, Piccadilly, on May 26th, at which Miss Naomi Jacob will speak on "The Rights of Animals." Much excellent work is done by "The Women's Guild of Empire" to alleviate the plight of wild animals captive in this country, and it is their urgent wish to prevent the exploitation of animals for gain, by all and sundry, without qualification or supervision. They argue that it would be infinitely better to employ human artists, many of whom are out of work, rather than the performing animal. This sounds good sense, but unfortunately the circus appeals to a far wider public than does a music hall, for it is patronised largely by the very young, with whom the ordinary variety entertainment finds no favour. Until children have been educated up to the idea that caged animals are not happy, and that wild creatures can hardly ever be trained to do tricks without cruelty, the circus will continue to be a draw.

Another important matter to be considered is the position of the Private Zoo. These are sometimes well run, but they are not as a rule wealthy concerns, and it is not possible to keep wild animals in any degree of comfort without huge expense. The writer has seen two polar-bears, on a grilling summer-day, in a small cage with no shade, and only a small shallow pool for water; a fine tiger kept in a small stable only fit for a pony, with no outlook but a brick wall. These are two minor instances of conditions to be met with all over the country.

Another crying evil is the so-called "Fun Fair." When these are held out of doors it is bad enough, the beasts touring the country in extreme discomfort, but when they are held under cover and in shops as an attraction to purchasers the conditions are indescribable. Here the animals are confined in cages far too small, in heat and noise and with no chance of any exercise. The public who patronise any exhibition where wild beasts are doomed to spend their whole lives in such conditions, must be entirely lacking in imagination, otherwise such an outcry would be raised as would put a stop once and for all to these practices.

Animals kept under proper conditions, as they are at Whipsnade and Dudley where they are happy, are interesting and educational, but so long as wild beasts are deprived of their liberty and kept in misery for the rest of their lives as they are being at present in England, the Women's Guild of Empire will fight to have these conditions made illegal.

WIRE

THE nondescript little man dumped his sack upon the ground with a sigh of relief and leaned upon the gate. The field in front of him sloped gently towards the wood; it was a rough, uncared for piece of pasture, and the grass grew in wiry clumps interspersed with patches of bracken and hawthorn. It was not at all the sort of field to rejoice the heart of a farmer, and yet the little man seemed to be very interested in it, for he remained leaning on the gate for quite a long time, his keen eyes scanning the grass tract as though he wished to know every inch of it.

And so, indeed, he did; for he was a professional rabbit-catcher. For fifteen pounds a year the farmer let him trap or shoot the rabbits and sell them as best he could. Hence his interest in this rough field, for it was the best rabbiting ground on the whole farm. All over the field were the little runs which had been made by the passage of countless little feet. Hither and thither they wound and twisted from the wood to the top of the field and back again; and to a rabbit-catcher with a knowledge of woodcraft these runs told a lot. They told that they were used each night by many, many rabbits and that some judiciously placed wire snares were sure to reap a rich harvest; for a snare set by skilled hands is a most certain—if cruel—instrument of death.

The little man picked up his sack and swung himself over the gate. Then, for the next hour he was very busy. On closer inspection, the runs could be seen to be a series of little flattened patches in the grass. This was because the rabbits moved in a series of hops. In between the flattened patches the grass grew upright, and it was in these long grasses that the little man set his wires so that they would catch the rabbits as they were in the middle of a hop from one patch to another.

The snares were made of pliable copper wire and were attached each to a stake about eighteen inches long. The loop of the snare was set a hand's-breadth above the ground, the stake being securely driven in. Any rabbit putting his head through that running noose would die a miserable death from strangulation, not quickly but slowly and painfully as the cruel wire cut ever deeper into its neck. The little man was at work for a long time, and when at length he had finished, over two hundred snares were set in the rough field. He gathered up his empty sack and left, thinking of the rabbits he would be able to collect on the morrow.

The evening wore on and presently the rabbits began to appear through the hedge. Here and there they moved as they fed on the rank grass, and every now and then a choking gasp told that a victim had been caught. They lay kicking feebly for a long time until at last the choking wire had done its work. But, that night at any rate, rabbits were not the only victims.

It was nearly dark when a fox stepped from under cover of the hedge. He stood motionless, his nostrils twitching and his yellow eyes staring out into the field. His full brush drooped behind

him and his russet coat shone with the glow of perfect health. He caught the flash of a white scut as a rabbit was stopped by a snare and instantly he flashed forward to pick up an easy supper.

Over the grass he sped with that easy gait which is so typically vulpine. But he never reached that rabbit, for he had scarce gone forty yards than something closed upon his leg and brought him up with a jerk that almost pulled it from its socket. He rolled over in a somersault and snorted as he felt the pain of a wire biting deep into his fore-leg. For a moment he lay still, then he tugged frenziedly, but it only helped to draw the wire tighter. He was badly frightened by this devilish thing which held him by cutting into his flesh. He was even more frightened because he knew it was the work of Man, his greatest enemy. Somehow he had got to get free. But how? His pulling and jerking had only served to tighten the noose until it had cut to the very bone. He lowered his dainty muzzle, and with two quick bites he severed the copper strands. Quickly he limped back to the wood, holding his wounded foot in the air.

Now most animals when wounded will lick their wounds and thus cleanse them, but a fox does not. He leaves everything alone and trusts to luck; so that when our fox awoke on the following morning his leg was already swollen and painful. He lay in his earth enduring the pain which, as time went on, grew worse instead of better.

In a week's time his leg was as big as a man's wrist and was giving forth a foul discharge. He had difficulty in moving and his diet was perforce restricted to beetles and grubs and such carrion as he was lucky enough to pick up. Day after weary day he dragged his miserable body out on his ceaseless search for food, but in his crippled condition he could never get enough, and every day his leg was worse.

It was two months before the end came. Hounds came cub-hunting to that wood, and they had scarcely started to hunt before they pulled down a fox. The huntsman took him away from them and bent over him. He was only skin and bone and his left fore-leg was enormously swollen. The flesh was rotten and spongy, and protruding from the gangrenous mass was the end of a piece of copper wire. Death at long last had been merciful.

DAN RUSSELL.

The Inner Man

WINE AND FOOD SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

THE Wine and Food Society conducted this week, on two consecutive days, the 18th and 19th, an interesting tour of the Vale of Evesham, at the height of the Asparagus Season. Leaving Paddington at 10.15 a.m. the party reached Evesham two hours later and proceeded by road

to Broadway, when an excellent and typically "country" luncheon was served at the Lygon Arms, with freshly gathered asparagus, of course, one of the chief features of the menu. The only wine served on this occasion was a 1935 Chablis. After lunch, the party was conducted through the asparagus grounds and shown not only how asparagus is grown, but how it is picked, packed and generally "conditioned" for despatch to London and other great and populous centres.

Next week, on May 25th, members and their friends will be journeying to Surrey and dine at the Hog's Back Hotel, at Seale, on the way from Guildford to Farnham, there to sample real Surrey fare, which will include, besides Surrey trout and capons, some of the vegetables which Mr. Lloyd George grows at nearby Churt. The wines on that occasion will include, besides the opening Sherry, a white Burgundy (Montrachet, 1934), a fine Château Claret (Brane-Cantenac, 1924), a glass of fine Vintage Port with the Blue Cheshire (Sandeman, 1912), and a glass of Fine Champagne Brandy (Hine's, 1893) with the black coffee.

The following Sunday, May 29th, the President of the Society and Madame André Simon are at home to the members of the Society and their friends. They call it "Azalea Sunday" because Azaleas are the pride of their garden, at Little Hedgecourt, near East Grinstead, at the end of May. Unfortunately, the late frosts of the cold and callous spring this year have done some grievous damage, but they have had no effect upon the spirit of hospitality of host and hostess.

On June 9th the Society will be showing between 11.30 and 2 p.m. a number of particularly fine Hocks and Moselles, from the Moselle and Saar valleys, from the Rheingau, Rheinhessen and Rheinpfalz or Palatinate; also from the Nahe Valley and Franconia. The wines have been specially selected and sent by the *Hauptvereinigung der Deutschen Weinbauwirtschaft*.

The following week, on June 14th and 15th, the Society will give a dinner at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, the purpose of which is to give members and their guests a chance of appraising the progress made by some of the classical French wines of the 1929 vintage, including Champagne, Claret, Burgundy and Sauternes.

On June 26 the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Society has arranged a special Opera luncheon at Glyndebourne, for those of the Society's members who wish to be present that evening when *Così fan tutte* will be performed.

On July 5th the Society's annual Thames-side luncheon at the Hind's Head Hotel, Bray, will take place, and mine host Barry Neame has promised his fellow-members and their guests to give them this year a Champagne lunch.

Later on in July a dinner may be arranged in Queen Mary's Gardens, Regent's Park, in connection with the Open-Air Theatre season, after which both the hard-working Secretary and President of the Society look forward to enjoying a well-deserved rest before preparing other functions for the autumn.

Books of The Day

BISMARCK ERA AND NOW

DR. WINIFRED TAFFS' scholarly and illuminating survey of the European scene in the seventies and eighties during the twelve years' Ambassadorship of Lord Odo Russell (later the first Baron Amptill) at Berlin is a notable contribution to nineteenth century European history ("Ambassador to Bismarck: Lord Odo Russell," Muller, two illustrations, 15s.). By the light of Lord Odo's despatches, most of which are now published for the first time, and with other material gathered from original sources, she gives us a detailed and extremely lucid story of an important but highly complicated and unrestful period of European diplomacy. In many respects the story she has to tell suggests comparisons with the conditions of to-day. There were, as now, scares and threats of war as Powers which had just finished fighting were busy re-arming themselves. The new German Reich, suspicious of French intentions, was exceedingly nervous over the possible consequences of a Franco-Russian entente. Spain, which had just witnessed the abdication of King Amadeo, provoked both in Berlin and in Paris anxieties somewhat similar to those of to-day, as will be clear from the following passage in one of Lord Odo's despatches: "The establishment of another Republic in Europe will be looked upon as a dangerous example to Germany by her rulers, and doubly so if by enjoying the cordial sympathy of liberal England and France, Republican Spain appears to add to the moral influence of France and her allies." The British Government then, as now, was pursuing a policy of "non-intervention" in Spain and Lord Odo could assure Bismarck that Her Majesty's Government "had no other wish than to see the people of Spain settle their own affairs on a national basis calculated to give them peace and prosperity at home and abroad." If Bismarck, unlike Hitler, had no quarrel with the Jews, his *Kulturkampf* brought him into much the same conflict with the Roman Church as is now being waged by Nazi Germany. To Bismarck as to Hitler, there could be no divided loyalties within the State. "He could not conceive that a faithful child of the Church could also be a loyal son of the Fatherland." Bismarck again, like Hitler, appeared to be very desirous of winning the friendship of England; he made a series of overtures—like Hitler again, if we are to believe what Lord Londonderry tells us in "Ourselves and Germany"—only to have them politely ignored.

British foreign policy at this period was no more distinguished than it has been at times of recent years for its thorough understanding and appreciation of the situations with which it had to deal. It was a case very largely of "muddling through." Neither Disraeli nor Lord Derby thought much either of Lord Odo's abilities or of his painstaking efforts to enlighten them regarding the significance of this or that development. They preferred, as Foreign Office incumbents have frequently done

since, to trust to their own unguided (and, as it turned out, faulty) judgment. Why, in the circumstances, they kept Lord Odo so long in Berlin would be a mystery did we not know that the Queen at least thought highly of him, at his death paying him the warm tribute: "The nation and I and Europe, not to speak of Germany, have lost one who cannot be replaced." In 1876 Disraeli wrote to Lord Derby: "I do not like Lord Odo's letter, or anything, so far as I can gather, that he has done." Later on he expressed his irritation with the whole Diplomatic Service and with Lord Odo in particular:

"I wish we could get rid of the whole lot. They seem to me quite useless. It is difficult to control events, but none of them try to. I think Odo Russell the worst of all. He contents himself with reporting all Bismarck's cynical bravadoes, which he evidently listens to in an ecstasy of sycophantic wonder. Why does he not try to influence Bismarck as the Prince controls him? Why does he not impress on Bis, for example, that if Germany and Austria police Poland, in order that Russia should add 500,000 men to her legions, England will look upon that as a gross breach of neutrality?"

In contrast with this outburst, we have the view of a French observer quoted by Dr. Taffs to the effect that Lord Odo was the only one at the Court of Berlin who was capable of "judging that Man of Iron according to his merits" and of reading his very thoughts. Bismarck feared him, but also appreciated him, knowing that "in spite of his outward amiability" he could "neither be led away with flattery, nor hoodwinked with friendly protestations, that he would repel every attempt at corruption; and that, with immovable calmness, he would distinguish the promise verbally made to him from that which is intended to be kept."

Perhaps where Lord Odo showed less than his usual acumen was in being rather slow to realise that a remarkable change had taken place in Bismarck's attitude towards the question of colonies. Here, again, comparisons can be made between Hitler and Bismarck. Both "Men of Iron" for very similar reasons thought at one time that colonies were useless to Germany; that they would only make for weakness. And now Hitler, like Bismarck, has suddenly changed his views. Having heard Bismarck "consistently and vehemently" denounce a colonial policy for Germany over a period of ten years, Lord Odo might be excused for entertaining some doubt at first as to whether the popular demand for colonies in Germany in the early eighties would receive much encouragement from the Chancellor. But he entertained that doubt much too long and thereby enabled Bismarck to spring his Colonial surprises on an unenlightened Whitehall.

It has to be remembered, however, that his health was failing (he was to die in August, 1884) and it is possible that he was in consequence not in quite the same close contact with the views of Bismarck, who also appears to have become somewhat embittered against England over the question of the Fiji mixed commission and therefore less inclined to give his full confidence to England's representative at Berlin. In one of his last despatches to Lord Granville, Lord Odo Russell (or Lord Amptill as he then was)—the despatch is dated 27th June, 1884—sets out the reasons

Bismarck himself had given him for the change in his attitude on this colonial question :

He said that he had approached the whole subject with great reserve; he admired the energy of the men who wished to found these colonies, and he had said to himself, how would he be justified if he replied to them that Germany was too weak to found colonies, her fleet not strong enough and that difficulties might arise with foreign Governments? It was impossible for him, the first Chancellor of the newly-created empire to say to these men, even if he believed it, "Germany is too weak and too poor for such undertakings." . . . Germany did not wish to carry on an exclusive and selfish colonial policy like other States smaller than England had done.

FANNY BURNEY AND HER CIRCLE

Fanny Burney of late years has had a good many books written about her, and to-day there are no signs that she has ceased to interest either the historian or the biographer. She may have suffered in the last part of a long life from the unpleasant knowledge that she had outlived her fame as a writer. But fate has in some respects dealt more kindly with her in the succeeding years. Few people to-day, it is true, ever take the trouble to read her "Evelina," much less her later work which was marred by an increasing affectation of style. Nonetheless, Fanny's niche in the temple of fame is secure for her, because of her association with the great ones of her youth and middle age. It was, perhaps, her most grievous misfortune that she should have earned in her early life such extravagant praise from men like Dr. Johnson, Burke, Reynolds and Sheridan; one could hardly blame her if in consequence a young author of promise was gradually transformed into a writer who luxuriated in what a Quarterly Reviewer called "the strange galimatias of pompous verbosity." But there are some critics to-day who are not content with this explanation of her deterioration as a writer, and who endeavour to trace her later failure to faults of extreme egotism and snobbery. We are invited in fact to regard poor Fanny as something of an "enigma" who requires elaborate explanation as if she had been some kind of psychological mystery.

One must confess to being not particularly impressed with this very modern approach to a study of Fanny Burney, since it raises far more problems than the simple one it seeks to solve. One is glad, therefore, to note that Mr. Arthur Bernon Tourtellot, the latest biographer of Fanny Burney ("Be Loved No More: The Life and Environment of Fanny Burney," drawings by Ernest John Donnelly, Allen and Unwin, 10s. 6d.), makes no effort to discover a new Fanny for us, but is content to tell the actual story of her life and of the literary and social circle in which she moved. And he tells that story exceedingly well in a lively style that will appeal to the average reader. Naturally, not everyone will agree with all the judgments he passes. For example, he appears to think that Fanny's championship of Warren Hastings was founded on lack of understanding of the facts against the accused. Yet Fanny's sympathy with Hastings was justified not only by his acquittal on all the charges brought against him, but by the general verdict of posterity. One must make allowance, however, for an author's occasional

bias—especially where, as in this case, it obtrudes so little. Mr. Tourtellot's book has the conspicuous merit of presenting to us a well-written and entertaining study of the real Fanny Burney in her proper environment, while the title he has chosen also serves to remind us of the pathos that was inseparable from her later life when her popularity as a writer had long waned.

PIERS PLOWMAN

Literary research has long been busy with that famous fourteenth century poem "Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman," more commonly known as the "Vision of Piers Plowman" or "Piers Plowman." Skeat was the first to distinguish three different texts in the poem—the first version or A-Text written in 1362; the second version, the B-Text, written in 1377; and the last version, the C-Text, written between 1380 and 1390. Skeat was inclined to attribute all these versions to one writer, William Langland or Langley. Since Skeat's day there has been a tendency to attribute the different texts to more than one author. Father T. P. Dunning, an Irish religious, who is a graduate of the National University of Ireland, in a scholarly and carefully reasoned contribution to the subject ("Piers Plowman: An Interpretation of the A-Text," Longmans, 8s. 6d.), now advances the argument that the A-Text contains two absolutely distinct poems (*The Visio* and *the Vita*) which were the work of one and the same author, but which were subsequently blended into one by the more abstract-minded author of B-Text who added to them nine passus. He reinforces his argument by a detailed and highly interesting analysis of the structure and artistic merits of the A-Text. His manner of interpreting various passages is very convincing and instructive and it is difficult to resist the conclusions he reaches.

SWITZERLAND IN SUMMER

Those who have read Mr. Charles Graves' "Deauville Taxi," "Gone Abroad" and "Triptyque" will have ideas as to the delightful kind of travel book to expect from him when he goes motoring in Switzerland in the month of August. Nor will they have any cause to be disappointed with his "Swiss Summer" (Nicholson and Watson, 10s. 6d.). There is all in it that the summer tourist to Switzerland could possibly want: useful information about such things as hotels which supply good food and wine, golf clubs, swimming pools, night clubs, places in which it is possible to gamble, fashionable resorts, beauty spots and charming out-of-the-way villages. And apart from this there is Mr. Graves' observant eye for the picturesque, the literary grace of his style, his pleasing faculty of making good copy out of the seemingly trivial and, last but not least important, his hereditary taste for history. "I must remember," he writes, "that this is a travel book and not a history book, despite my great-uncle Leopold von Ranke." That great-uncle is ever looking over his shoulder and prompting him to historical "excursions." And though he feels he has to apologise for so much history it really adds to the attractiveness

and interest of his chronicle. And it is, after all, part of the essential background to this modern scene. Some may even regret that "the great-uncle" had to be restrained. But at least one must be grateful to his inspiration for the pleasing account his great-nephew gives us of the history of the Swiss Mercenaries from the days of Charlemagne to the present century.

RESTLESS AND ADVENTUROUS

Mrs. E. Lewis Bailey, one gathers from her entertaining book "Following My Nose Through Morocco" (Selwyn and Blount, 10s. 6d.), is one of those versatile, happy-minded creatures who are prepared to set their hands to anything and are not disposed weakly to submit to unkind Fate. Fortune was not too friendly to her in her three adventurous years in Morocco and she had to take up all manner of odd jobs, such as "charing" in a cinema, typing in a tourist office, "receptionist" in a hotel and even looking after other people's dogs. But her courage and sense of humour survived all her trials and her book is a lively, brightly written record of unusual experiences—with at the end of it a glimpse into conditions in Morocco and the International Zone of Tangier after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

"I am naturally a reporter and always want to be seeing things and writing of what I see." So writes Mr. Jerome Willis in setting out the adventures of his "Restless Quest" (Hurst and Blackett, 10s. 6d.). The story begins with his service in the Royal Naval Air Force in South Russia in the Deniken campaign. At the time

he had no very clear idea as to what he and his comrades were supposed to be doing, but he managed all the same to have a fairly enjoyable time, and his recollections of this sphere of war duty make good reading. On being demobbed he took up a civil service post, dabbled in journalism and finally was driven by post-war restlessness to desert the office stool for a job in the French Cameroons. Here, too, there was to be plenty of material for his reporting gifts, to be well and agreeably utilised in the writing of another section of his book. From the Cameroons he went on a newspaper assignment to Singapore. Thence he made his way back to England via Shanghai, Tokio and Hollywood. Finally after a spell of work in a news agency in London, Spain and its Civil War called him. And this perhaps is the best part of a vividly written, eminently readable book.

SELLING WELL

A first contribution of nearly £300 to the Boy Scouts Appeal Fund has been made from the sale of the new Scout Record-Book "B.P.'s Family in Picture and Story," published by Evans Brothers in conjunction with the Boy Scouts Association. Each copy of the book bought at 2s. 6d. by Scouts or by the public gives 6d. to the Fund. In less than a month of publication approximately 12,000 copies have been bought.

NEW NOVELS

A delicacy of touch, a fragrant atmosphere that is wholly English and a quiet, but skilful handling of character are qualities that will commend Miss Martin Hare's "English Rue" (Heinemann, 10s. 6d.) to all who read it as an exceptionally good novel. It is a longish book and perhaps in the first part the reader might wish for fewer children, but apart from this there is no fault to find with it. Its central theme is a romance that does not run too smoothly and Miss Hare's manner of setting out her drama and presenting her characters is so wholly convincing and adroit that the length of her tale merely makes for added enjoyment.

A device that seems to be favoured by many novelists to-day is to start a story in the present, then suddenly hark back to the past and in the last chapter or so revert to the present. This method is apt to be rather irritating to the average reader, but no doubt when skilfully employed it has its artistic justifications. That is certainly true of Mr. Martin Boyd's "Night of the Party" (Dent), where the throw-back to the past in the centre of the tale is intended to, and does, serve the purpose of explaining the main characters and their actions. It is an excellent tale in which Mr. Boyd once more displays his gifts for bright and spirited dialogue.

Another fairly common device of the modern novelist is to give us a group story of several lives, connected together by association with the same street, the same building or the same business occupation. Two particularly good stories of this type are Miss Florence A. Kilpatrick's "Within Four Walls" (Harrap), and Mr. Stacey Hyde's "Each Had His Day" (Bles). Miss Kilpatrick's

Sixth Impression. Price 1/6 net.

Schools of Hellas

AN ESSAY ON
ANCIENT GREEK EDUCATION

By
K. J. FREEMAN,
Scholar of Winchester and of Trinity College, Cambridge

*With fourteen reproductions of
Greek vases on terra-cotta paper*

We have nothing but praise.—*The Times*
The book is a masterpiece.—*Morning Post*
This fine discriminating essay.—*Daily Telegraph*
Full of freshness and the joy of life.—*The Guardian*
The best account in English.—*Saturday Review*

MACMILLAN

"Four Walls" are those of a modern Flats building and she shows amazing dexterity in the handling of the characters and lives of the varied occupants of the different floors from the basement to the top. She tells her group story with a sympathetic humour and understanding of the different lives she reveals to us and as she skips from one floor to the next, one is never conscious of any break with the unities. Mr. Hyde has undertaken an even more difficult task than Miss Kilpatrick has selected for herself, and he has accomplished it with remarkable success. The lives with which he deals are centred in a factory and he tells us of only one day in those lives—the day when the factory is changing hands. There is plenty of incident in the tale: among other things, an attempted murder and the death of the man who made the attempt. The characters are well drawn and there is a virile strength about the telling of "Each Had His Day" that is impressive.

Mr. Michael Burt evidently knows his Kashmir and the Indian Himalayan borderland and he has turned this knowledge to good use in his "Secret Orchards" (Ward, Lock), which is both a charming romance and an unusually credible Secret Service story. The romance predominates and that is as it should be with the hero and heroine that Mr. Burt gives us and with such a glorious setting as he has chosen for their adventures.

"High Meadows," by Alison Uttley (Faber & Faber, 8s. 6d.), is a pleasantly idealistic country tale about a farming household of a father and his three daughters, the eldest of whom is the central figure. She has three suitors. One of these to whom she is temporarily attached is in a class above her and he proceeds to "jilt" her after she has visited his mother, owing to her "naturalness" striking the wrong note. She finds consolation in a "poacher-singer" who has long wooed her.

Mr. Mark Benney's latest book, "The Scapegoat Dances" (Peter Davies), has for its hero a young burglar just released from prison and tells of his struggles to shake himself free from the overshadowing influence of his long sentence. The social world in which he is forced to mix and have his being, is that in which the spheres of vice, crime and Bohemia overlap and Mr. Benney, in unfolding his story, paints in vividly and luridly this background, and incidentally displays a flair for realistic portraiture. He can write extremely well when he chooses and his occasional lapses into verbal extravagances do not have the effect of detracting from the genuine merits of his tale.

"A Leaf in the Wind," by Joe Lederer (Herbert Jenkins), has for its theme the clash between East and West. It is the story of a business man from Shanghai who marries an Austrian girl and takes her out to China. His wife hates the East and finally leaves him, only to be killed in a car smash. The book gives one a very clear picture of commercial life in the Far East.

Methuen have just started a new series of sixpenny books that should appeal to a wide section of the reading public. This is called "Sovereign Thrillers." The tales included in the series are all entirely new and to judge by the specimens sent us to review they seem likely to fulfil all their

readers' requirements in the way of excitement, suspense and mystery. The first eight tales are the work of two writers: Messrs. Fred MacIsaac and Donald Ross.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Early next month Allen & Unwin will be publishing "G.P.U. Justice," by Maurice Edelman. This is an account of the experiences of a German engineer in a Moscow prison, written up from the detailed and graphic notes of Peter Kleist, the engineer in question. The same firm will also be bringing out in June a translation of a well-known novel of René Béhaine—"The Survivors."

Methuen will be bringing out on May 26 a book by Mr. Maxwell Fraser on the holiday possibilities of Sweden. This is called "In Praise of Sweden." Another book to be issued by Methuen at the same time will be "Anglo-Saxon Art," by Mr. T. D. Kendrick.

Macmillan will have ready before the end of next month "The Second Tory Party, 1714-1832," by Mr. Keith Feiling.

Longmans hope to have the new edition of the first volume on "Naval Operations" in the Official History of the Great War ready by next month. It has been considerably revised in the light of new material, mainly derived from the German official histories.

Collins are issuing Lord Elton's autobiographical reminiscences under the title "Among Others" at the end of the present month.

Werner Lawrie have in hand a new book by Mr. J. B. Booth entitled "Sporting Times: The Pink'Un World."

A new murder book by

WARNER ALLEN

Times Literary Supplement: "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design."

"Mr. Warner Allen has chosen for his background the home and political life of Roger d'Arblay, bitter opponent of the French premier, Allard. Public and private intrigues lead to a series of tragedies."

"A brilliant chapter on the trial of Madame d'Arblay for the murder of Allard deserves special mention as a model for those who should ever attempt the dangerous feat of balancing on a rope stretched between accurate observation and planned exaggeration, without falling into the net of caricature."

7/6 net

"DEATH FUNGUS"

Constable

Round the Empire

UNION ELECTION

AT THE MOMENT the returns of the South African General Election are not available. But the following details regarding the nominations for the 150 contests may help to throw a light on the returns when they are published. Nomination Courts sat in all the 150 constituencies of the Union on April 26th. The number of persons nominated was 354. Three of these were contesting two seats, so that the candidates totalled 357. With four unopposed returns (all of them members of the United Party), 353 candidates were polled for on May 18th. The candidates nominated were divided between the political parties as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| United Party | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Nationalist Party | ... | ... | ... | ... | 102 |
| Labour Party | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Dominion Party | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Independents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Greyshirts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Socialists | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Farmers' and Workers' Party | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 357 |

For the Cape Province, 129 candidates were nominated for the 59 seats. The United Party was contesting all 59 seats, the Nationalists 41, the Dominionites 13, Labour eight, Independents five, Socialists two, and Greyshirts one. Mr. J. F. van G. Bekker was contesting both Cradock and Wodehouse for the Nationalist Party.

For Transvaal's 60 seats 152 candidates were nominated, 60 by the United Party, 43 by the Nationalists, 23 by Labour, 10 by the Dominion Party, 15 by Independents, while Mr. F. A. W. Lucas was the sole nominee for the Union of his own one-man Farmers' and Workers' Party.

The Rev. C. W. M. du Toit (Nat.) was contesting both Johannesburg West and Krugersdorp. Mr. P. van der Merwe Martins, the Independent United Party candidate, was fighting his own constituency of Warkkerstroom and was also opposing General Smuts at Standerton.

In the Free State, both the United Party and the Nationalist Party nominated candidates for all the 15 seats. One Independent Labourite and one Labourite were also put up.

Besides the United Party's 16 nominees in Natal, the Dominion Party there nominated 10 candidates, Labour four, the Nationalists three, the Greyshirts two, while Mr. Duncan Burnside was the sole representative of the Socialist Party, and there were eight Independents, a total of 44.

All the members of the Cabinet had opponents nominated against them. They all had straight fights except Mr. F. C. Sturrock who, at Turffontein, had Dominionite, Nationalist and Labour opponents.

Of the members of the last Parliament, 114 were re-nominated—48 in the Cape, 41 in the Transvaal, 13 in the Free State and 12 in Natal.

Seven women were nominated, three belonging to the United Party.

Commenting upon these nominations the *Cape Times* remarked that it was more than a sign of confidence in its powers that the United Party had decided to contest every seat in the Union. "It is, whether by design or by happy accident, a symbol of the United Party's thoroughly representative character. For the United Party is a party which represents the Afrikaans-speaking people, the English-speaking people; it represents the towns and the country; it represents the workers and the work-givers; it includes men who fought for the old republics and men who fought against them; in short, it doesn't give a tinker's cuss about a man's political past, provided that in his political present he has the three R's—that he is reputable, responsible and reasonable."

"There are irresponsibles enough for a full Wonderland tea-party. The Grey Shirts, with their pathetically malignant belief that all man's misfortunes are engineered by the Jews; some of the Socialists, who cheerfully throw matches into the colour-prejudice powder-barrel; some of the Labour Party, who complicate what ought to be straight fights between the two big parties by putting up candidates in constituencies where they have less chance than a microbe in a bottle of carbolic acid; and the army of independents from the Left and the Right, from the silent to the garrulous, men prickly with curious policies, or baldly without policy at all. Some of these will be returned; democracy must have her joke. But there is no menace to the country in them."

"The Great Unreasonable, however, are a menace to the Union, for as Nationalists or Dominionites they follow policies which, no matter how pure (or purified) their motives may be, tend inevitably towards a South Africa riven by hate. The Dominionites persist in their adherence to a constitutional theory that might have been valid when the world was flat, but has now lost all relation to reality. They try to frighten good English-speaking men and women with General Hertzog's republicanism and his dishonourable intentions towards the term 'British Subject'; although in the past few days General Hertzog himself has said in public that only a fool would want a republic to-day, and that he had no intention of introducing legislation to abolish the term 'British Subject.' The Nationalists persist in an anti-Empire, anti-Jew, anti-native, anti-coloured, anti-Rand policy that would wreck Union economics and make the upbuilding of a South African nation impossible."

AUSTRALIA'S NEW DEFENCE PROGRAMME

The Commonwealth Prime Minister, Mr. Lyons, announced some weeks ago in a broadcast to the Australian people that his Government had been giving the question of their country's military preparedness the most careful consideration, and, after consultation with the Council of Defence, it had decided on a defence programme of £24,800,000 additional new expenditure in the next three years. Added to the vote for the maintenance

of the defence forces as hitherto organised, the total defence expenditure during this period, apart from the civil aviation vote, would be £43,000,000. "I am sure," said Mr. Lyons, "that the Australian people have only to be made aware of the increase necessary in order readily to accept the obligations involved. The vital interests we are called upon to defend are:—(i) The free passage of our sea-borne trade, both coastal and overseas; (ii) The maintenance of the territorial integrity of the Commonwealth against aggression." The new Navy expenditure, he said, would be £7,750,000 and would include provision for two new cruisers and an increase in anti-submarine vessels. For the Army, the new expenditure would be £5½ millions.

"The Government," Mr. Lyons went on to say, "has a strong conviction, based on the best joint service advice obtainable abroad, that the Air Force can make a major contribution to the solution of the problem of Australian defence. The Government, therefore, proposes to provide the large additional sum of £8,800,000 to complete the Salmond scheme of air defence within the next three years. This will increase the first line strength of aircraft, apart from reserves, from 96 to 198. The Government's air advisers consider that this increase in the strength of the Air Force is the maximum that can be developed in the next three years, having regard to the extensive ground organisation to be provided and the personnel to be trained."

According to the *Australasian*, the Lyons Government, in the development of its new defence programme, intends to introduce a new principle of supervision and co-ordination of the activities of all sections of the defence services. Self-containment in all aspects of Australian defence, including the training of personnel and the manufacture of munitions, is the ultimate object of the new programme. Co-operation is likely to be sought from the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Curtin), who may be invited to join the Defence Council.

"The Federal Ministry evidently learned a great deal during the election campaign and has had many lessons since," was Mr. Curtin's comment on Mr. Lyons' broadcast. "The defence programme outlined by Mr. Lyons on March 24 is a vastly different thing from theories of collective security and external co-operation which hitherto have been the Prime Minister's pre-occupation. Labour welcomes Mr. Lyons's definiteness regarding the function of the Royal Australian Navy. Its purpose is to defend commerce in our own waters and protect our coast, but it must be patent that to have naval forces we must also have naval constructional capacity. Otherwise our maintenance and repair organisation will fail and the efficiency of our Navy be lessened, particularly in time of war. Australia can rely on the Labour party to act in the time ahead in the true interests of the nation," he concluded. "That means definitely that we will provide for the defence of the country to the maximum. It also means that we will not allow measures for defence to become a basis of profiteering at the people's expense."

"Labour will co-operate with the Federal Ministry in its preparations to defend Australia against a foreign invader, but it will insist that industrial and trade union principles should be safeguarded," declared Mr. Holloway, M.H.R., at the Labour Day anniversary social at the Melbourne Trades Hall, on March 26.

COMMONWEALTH'S OIL SUPPLIES

If Australia intends effectively to strengthen her defence forces, one of her most important considerations, under conditions of modern warfare, must be a guarantee of dependable oil supplies. This opinion was expressed by Mr. C. K. Gamble, who has returned from the United States to assume duty as managing director of the Vacuum Oil Co. in the Commonwealth. "Australia obtains her principal oil supplies from three sources—the Dutch East Indies, the Persian Gulf country, and California," Mr. Gamble said. "If she is building up her Air Force and her Navy, she must develop her defences in the north to safeguard her supply from Sumatra, which is her nearest, and therefore her most important, source. The establishment of an air force and sub-naval depot at Darwin will help considerably to provide the guarantee," he said. Mr. Gamble believes that Japan could not afford an aggressive policy towards Australia, Great Britain and the United States. "Japan," he said, "is not a self-contained nation. If it conquered a country, it could be only for reasons of exploitation of natural resources, and natural resources could not be exploited without capital. The only capital which Japan could obtain could come from either Great Britain or the United States."

SUBSIDIES FOR AIRLINES

"It is impossible for any airline to operate at a profit unless it receives a Government subsidy," said the managing director of Australian National Airways recently. Australian National Airways lost £11,359, and Airlines of Australia £6,958 in the second half of 1937. A total of 22,000 passengers had been carried 2,000,000 miles by the two airlines in that period. Australian National Airways had increased its flying time in that six months over the previous six months by 19.2 per cent., its mileage by 22.2 per cent., its passengers by 37.8 per cent., its freight by 75.2 per cent., and its airmails by 40.2 per cent. In the first six months of 1937 Australian National Airways lost £10,349, and in the second six months of 1936 £12,859. These two airlines had carried more passengers in the second half of 1937 than were carried by all the airlines operating in the year 1935.

STILL BETTER WHEAT

Another advance has been made by scientists in the battle against crop disease, particularly the "Rust" to which wheat is so susceptible. The achievement has been made possible by the Canadian National Research Council which, in conjunction with the Dominion Department of

Agriculture, has issued a report foreshadowing a new type of wheat out-yielding present standard varieties and virtually rust-resistant. Over sixteen varieties of wheat have been tested at various Field Experimental Stations throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and it is from these that the new strain has been evolved. It is what is known as the "Durum" variety.

CANADA'S FUR FARMING

Behind the vagaries of feminine fashions, which are now, in these spring days, being demonstrated yet again, are the labours of many industries with associations in all parts of the world. Fur fashions are a case in point. The trappers in Canada, realizing that they could not keep pace with demand, established years ago the industry of fur farming. In 1920 there were 1,000 of these establishments. Now there are over 8,000, which supply 40 per cent. of the total of all fur production in the Dominion. When fur farming was in its infancy fabulous prices were paid for the animals—£7,000 being given on one occasion for a pair of silver foxes. The total value of the fur-bearing animals on Dominion farms is something like £2,000,000 and the total revenue approximately £1,500,000, of which nearly £1,000,000 is contributed by the sale of silver fox pelts.

BOYS AS GUESTS OF NAVY

Thirty-five Canadian Schoolboys who will be visiting Europe this summer are to be the guests of the British Navy for a fortnight, at the invitation of Mr. Duff Cooper, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Under the auspices of the National Council of Education for Canada they will be attending the Sokol Festival in Czecho-Slovakia—the oldest organised physical culture foundation in the world. Thereafter they will come to England and will embark on battleships of the Home Fleet, probably on July 9th. The ships on which they will be the guests will include *Nelson*, *Rodney*, *Royal Oak*, *Revenge*, *Ramilles*, *Southampton*, *Newcastle*, *Cornwall* and *Sheffield*. After having seen something of what the British Navy can do, they will visit various towns on the South Coast and make their way north to the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, sailing for Canada on August 20th.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

The latest industry of Victoria, in British Columbia, is the preparation of frozen vegetables "processed without any loss in quality and ready for the kitchen." Peas, beans, corn on the cob and asparagus are said to be specially adapted for this treatment.

A PROGRESSIVE PROVINCE

Here are a number of items from British Columbia, Canada's progressive Province on the Pacific Coast:—

The cost of educating 118,431 pupils in the Provincial Schools amounted to nearly £2,000,000 last year.

Not even in the boom years of the late twenties did the consumption of electrical current equal that of last year, when 2,120,000,000 kilowatt hours were achieved for both industrial and domestic purposes. A recent survey puts the estimated power potentialities of the Provincial Rivers at between 6,000,000 and 8,000,000 horse power. So far only 718,000 have been developed.

During 1937 houses to the value of £200,000 were built in Vancouver.

TEACHING AGRICULTURE IN CEYLON

Ceylon is to grow more food, and farming is to be taught to every child in the Island. An initial campaign to stimulate food production and teach children farming has met with such success in the rural areas of Ceylon that an island-wide scheme is to be adopted and school children, even in the towns, will add agriculture to their curriculum.

The principle is that each school is to have its own farm—a piece of nearby land—and the crops grown will be sold through the usual channels. The profit made is to be split up among the children and held for them until their school-days are completed. It will then be handed over as capital for their own farms. Should any difficulty be encountered in finding land for town schools, poultry keeping will be taught. The authorities are concentrating their attention on the production by the schools of those foods which form the principal diet of the people of Ceylon, and vegetable and fruit seeds will be distributed free by the authorities.

INDIAN AIR FORCE

The *Statesman's* Simla correspondent, remarking upon the keen interest of members of all Parties in the Central Indian Legislature in Indian defence problems, says there is no ground whatever for the suspicions expressed that Indians are not being allowed to take their full share in their own country's defence. He quotes one instance—the newly-formed Indian Air Force—in which Indian politicians clearly do not realise how steadily their own countrymen are progressing in matters of defence, and then goes on to say:—

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's recently published dispatch on the operations in Waziristan disclosed the fact that these operations marked the first occasion on which the Indian Air Force had been employed on active service. Although little is generally known of this young service its first squadron has for some time past been in process of formation at Drigh Road, Sind. This unit is known as No. 1 Squadron, Indian Air Force and serves as an army co-operation squadron. By the end of 1937, two flights of this squadron had been established and the third is under formation at the present time. All Indians joining the Indian Air Force for flying duties at present undergo two years' training as cadets at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, after which they join their unit at Drigh Road,

Karachi, where they receive further training in applied flying. Vacancies in the equipment branch of the Indian Air Force have in the past been filled by officers who are found unsuitable for flying duties. A special staff of British officers and N.C.O.'s of the Royal Air Force is attached to the Indian Air Force at Drigh Road to organise courses of instruction at which Indian apprentices learn engine and aircraft maintenance, wireless telegraphy and many other specialist trades. After completing these courses apprentices pass out as fully-fledged "hawai sepoy's."

As soon as the formation of the first flight was completed, it was moved to Peshawar to join No. 20 (A.C.) Squadron, Royal Air Force, to gain experience in Frontier watch and ward duties. During the Waziristan operations in 1937 this flight took its turn with the other flights of No. 20 (A.C.) Squadron in providing a detachment at Miranshah required for air co-operation with the land forces in Waziristan. During its three months detachment the flight distinguished itself by carrying out over 800 hours' operational flying and achieved in one month the high figure of 372 hours.

A high standard of maintenance is required to carry out such a large amount of flying and the fact that not a single forced landing occurred gives a good indication of the keenness and efficiency of the unit. During these operations army co-operation duties consisted chiefly of providing close support for columns, convoys and road protection troops and these tasks, often entailing long patrols under trying flying conditions, were well and cheerfully carried out by the Indian Air Force.

The squadron's home will shortly be located at Ambala, which they will share with No. 28 (A.C.) Squadron, Royal Air Force. From this station flights will be detached for short periods to military centres of the Southern and Eastern Commands to carry out air co-operation training.

RADIO FOR INDIAN PRISONS

Efforts are being made to brighten prison life in India. Prisoners' Aid Societies and others agree that the radio is an ideal means of entertainment as well as an agency for the exercise of a reformatory influence. Wireless sets have already been installed in a number of prisons and others will follow. Commenting on this the *Statesman* says: "Radio entertainers may soon have to revise their ideas on the subject of wireless programmes. Official returns show that the number of licensed listeners in this country is astonishingly small. The time may come when there are more listeners in jails than licence-owning listeners outside."

STATUS OF INDIAN WOMEN

"The Indian woman is the Goddess of the Home; she is loved and protected from birth and guarded like a sacred treasure. In spite of all this care and comfort woman has decided to break away

from it. Too much of cream and sugar are beginning to pall," said Mrs. Vijailakshmi Pandit, United Provinces Minister for Local Self-Government, in a broadcast talk from the Lucknow Radio station. Continuing she said that if women were very far behind men in any country, that country would lack the fundamentals necessary for the building of its civilisation on a firm and durable base. Since the dawn of history mankind had kept the weak under control by means of taboos. Women in the West were at last breaking away from them, but women in the East were still in bondage. They had been brought up in complete ignorance of life and the world outside. The Indian girl was the property of her father who gave her away in marriage and she then became the property of her husband and her whole life was spent in humble and devoted service. The generations of blind submission had left their mark upon woman. She had lost the power of reasoning and was too glad to leave responsibility to others. But the world had moved on, the woman of a generation ago was rapidly changing and being replaced by one of a different type. The first taste of liberty might bring intoxication but it was only a question of time when she would regain possession of herself.

At the present stage of history civilisation was largely masculine and woman had left her place in the kitchen in many instances only to become a decorative member of society. But she could not be kept back for good in the region of the merely decorative. She was as necessary to civilisation as man. She was fighting to-day not only man's monopoly of making a living, but also man's monopoly of civilisation for there could be no civilisation in which man and woman were not equal partners. No nation had been built up without their joint efforts. There could be no freedom unless man and woman march forward to achieve it. Women must go forward with their menfolks and with friendship, co-operation and faith, build up Indian history together on equal terms in every department of life. Only then would they be able to achieve unity and progress of the Indian nation.

GRASS MOTOR ROADS

The Matabeleland Farmers' Association, in Southern Rhodesia, has asked the Government to grow grass on the roads. It is not suggested that this should be used for grazing cattle or making hay. The explanation is that the country roads in Rhodesia consist of two wide parallel strips of asphalt set flush in gravel. The farmers' idea is that if grass is allowed between and on each side of the strips it will avoid dust in dry weather and prevent pot-holes and corrugations forming in the gravel. Besides which it would be very pleasant for the eyes.

The Roads Department at first replied that grass alongside the strips prevents water running off and the road from drying. Experiments, however, are being carried out in various parts of the Colony with a variety called couch grass, which appears not to cause these injuries; indeed it is said to maintain a good working surface.

Your Investments

NEW LOANS AND THE MORAL

ONCE again it is proved that there are limits to the demand for Trustee stocks even though "cheap money" is apparently on the increase. The £7,000,000 3½ per cent. Australian loan issued at 99 resulted in some £4,000,000 of the stock being left in underwriters' hands. This loan was quite attractive but the banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions have already as much Australian stock in their portfolios as they can carry if they are to maintain their investment proportions, and the amount was too large for the investing public to swallow. The £10,000,000 London County Council 3½ per cent. loan issued at 101½ was less attractive and made no investment appeal at all, over £9,500,000 being left with underwriters.

Corporation issues at this price are too dear. To the ordinary investor the 3½ per cent. War Loan standing at the same price was infinitely more attractive, for the new L.C.C. loan is a 30-year issue and the Council's credit does not stand as high as of yore. Investors will do well to consider the whole question of Corporation borrowing. A mild boycott of Corporation loans would not be entirely unjustified, for local authorities are making no attempt to reduce indebtedness. As each loan matures, it is renewed for a larger amount. Compared with British Government stocks most Corporation loans look remarkably dear.

A GILT-EDGED POINTER

Failure of the loans mentioned was attributed in part to the huge withdrawals of French funds from the London market, something like £100,000,000 returning to France on the strength of M. Daladier's efforts to restore confidence. But the gilt-edged market as a whole stood up to this disturbance unflinchingly. As the Government is expected to produce a fresh National Defence issue whenever the omens are propitious, a lesson may be learned from the poor reception given to the resumption of gilt-edged borrowing. There is as much gilt-edged stock available as the banks and the public can comfortably absorb at the moment. Only a short-term bond issue is likely to meet with any great success unless the rate of interest offered on a long-term loan is very considerably raised. The Money Market is so short both of bills and bonds that a short-term loan would be assured of success. In this country as in U.S.A. and also in Europe the Government is busy "pump-priming" as the injection of infla-

tionary credit doses is styled. Only lack of confidence internationally enables such an unattractive fixed interest position to be tolerated. In the long run good class "equities" must prove the better holding.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY STOCKS

Weekly declines in Home Railway traffics seem to blind the market to the fact that the figures are comparing with remarkably good figures a year ago. This year's figures will compare more favourably later on. At the moment Home Rails are one of the duller sections of the "House." In the case of L.M.S. and L.N.E.R., misgivings are understandable with all the current talk of less activity in the heavy industries. With Great Western such premonitions appear unnecessary and it seems quite irrational that Southern stocks should decline.

UNION-CASTLE

Weakness of the £1 units of Union-Castle Mail Steamship which were introduced at around 22s. and have been around 14s. has surprised quarters in the City which should be able to judge the worth of the stock. Now the price has recovered to 17s. and there seems to be a growing opinion that a higher level is in sight. For the past two years earnings have been in the neighbourhood of 15 per cent., profits having been applied to strengthening the financial position and extinguishing preference dividend arrears. The chairman has plainly stated that the company should be in a position to pay an ordinary dividend this year and in view of this company's fine record it is remarkable that the stock is not a better market.

MEXICO AND OIL

Oil shares have always been one of the most erratic of markets and they are more than living up to their reputation. The dominant factor for some time has been Mexico's seizure of the foreign-owned wells including those of the Eagle Company. Now Mexico has broken off relations with Britain and the position seems very similar to that which formerly obtained with Russia who placed the oil industry in difficulties for a long time with illicit supplies. All countries with any respect for financial integrity will probably do their best to keep out Mexican oil supplies but the task is a difficult one and the outlook for the whole industry has been worsened. Yet in the midst of these conditions the Burmah Oil Company is able to increase its cash distribution from 27½ to 30 per cent. and also to declare a 50 per cent. share bonus by writing up its holding in Anglo-Iranian Oil to about £1 per share, still a very conservative valuation. Anglo-Iranian results should make interesting reading.

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Letters to the Editor

A NURSE'S CHARTER

Sir,—The evidence submitted by the British Medical Association to the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services last week, provided a grave warning of the danger of allowing the present shortage of nurses to continue. This shortage, the association states, will become more acute in the near future, and cannot be remedied unless many existing disadvantages of the nurse's career are removed. In its diagnosis of the present sickness from which the nursing service is suffering, and in the treatment it prescribes for its cure, the British Medical Association is in general agreement with the National Association of Local Government Officers. For some time now the N.A.L.G.O. has been urging upon local authorities the adoption of a "Nurses' Charter," the recommendations of which include—

A 48-hour week or 96-hour fortnight, inclusive of meals taken in the ward and of lectures;

The equivalent of one free day each week, fixed in advance, freedom to leave the hospital when off duty, and a minimum annual holiday of four weeks with pay;

Compulsory superannuation, with transfer value provisions for nurses leaving one hospital for another or for private nursing;

Regular and better meals, adequate facilities for indoor and outdoor recreation, a separate bedroom for each nurse, and abolition of domestic duties;

Higher minimum salaries for all grades of nurses, payment of salary during sickness, and adequate compensation for permanent disability arising from performance of duty.

With these suggestions the B.M.A. is in substantial agreement. It agrees with the N.A.L.G.O. too in its proposals for encouraging recruitment and training of nurses.

With this striking agreement between the medical profession and the representatives of nurses engaged in public health work it is to be hoped that hospital authorities, public and private, throughout the country, will speedily adopt the recommendations. That they are not impracticable is shown by the fact that ten local authorities have already adopted them in whole or in part. The latest to do so, South Shields, has adopted them almost in their entirety.

ALEC. SPOOR.

National Association of Local
Government Officers, London.

GERMANS IN SPAIN

Sir,—It is precisely the point which Mr. J. Francis raises, namely that Germany "could" dominate the present war-racked Spain for a number of years, which I do most emphatically deny. She could only do so by sheer force and against the united will of all parties in Spain, who could rely absolutely on British support in defence of her freedom and independence as she has done in the past.

Spain knows well, and prominent Spaniards have often told me, that Britain defends the integrity of Spain and will not ask for an inch of Spanish soil in exchange.

The presence of German families in San Sebastian is no new phenomenon and is clearly accounted for by the presence of, I think, some 5,000 German technical experts with Franco's forces. Most of these men have been long enough in Spain to desire to have their families near them, and there is no pleasanter place than San Sebastian for a prolonged stay.

Even so, the number of families is only ten per cent. of the number of German technicians. Surely it must be clear to all at this time of day that Germany's eyes are turned in quite another direction to Spain.

As Mr. Frances insinuates that I, who have fought against Germany, am unpatriotic, I may be allowed in my turn to express the hope that his own interest in the British Empire is not inspired by a lively hope of favours to come—from Stalin!

ERNEST C. YALDWYN.

6. Lower Sloane-street, S.W.1.

COMPANY MEETING

BRITISH MATCH CORPORATION

A Satisfactory Year

Growing Burden of Taxation

THE 11th ordinary general meeting of the British Match Corporation Limited, was held on Wednesday last at River Plate House, Finsbury-circus, London, E.C.

Mr. C. E. Bartholomew, O.B.E., the chairman, presided.

The chairman, before dealing with the accounts, referred to the loss which the Company had sustained during the year by the death of Mr. Andrew Williamson. He was, he said, a man of great personal charm and of exceptional business experience, always cheerfully placed at the board's disposal.

The board had elected Sir Ralph Glyn to fill the vacancy.

Although the revenue did not constitute a record, the Company had had, on the whole, a satisfactory year. He had to qualify that phrase because of the position in Brazil. Their friends in that wonderful country had again worked well and successfully, but since the sudden constitutional changes of November last, no dividends could be remitted. The board could only hope that arrangements would be made by the Brazilian Government in the near future to enable those who had invested capital in Brazil to receive the very modest profits which the depreciated exchange allowed them.

Their returns from the home trade, and from the British Dominions and the Argentine, were almost exactly the same as last year, but he must remind shareholders that they had had to suffer the National Defence Contribution, as well as the extra 3d. on the Income Tax. Those amounts paid by subsidiary companies and themselves had totalled nearly £50,000, and, while they might presumably enjoy increased National security, they had no possible opportunity of earning extra profits.

They had been warned in plain language to expect heavier burdens next year, and in the year after, and with such a prospect the Board could scarcely hold out hopes of increasing profits.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and a resolution providing for the conversion of the issued capital of the Company from shares into stock was carried unanimously.

THE NATIONAL Review

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May, 1938

Episodes of the Month

Who Keepeth His Goods in Peace?

COLONEL SIR HERBERT BRYAN, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Italian and Other Intervention in Spain

COMMENDATORE LUIGI VILLARI

America's Two Voices

ANGLO-AMERICAN

General Election in South Africa

VERNON A. BARBER

The Plot That Failed

AUGUR

Waste Not, Want Not

T. KERR RITCHIE

Mr. Chamberlain's Speech

Two Great School Matches

HON. ROBERT LYTTTELTON

May Day in the 'Eighties

MISS FLORA THOMPSON

Queen Victoria's Coronation

MISS A. E. HEWETT

Poem: Come Child

HOWARD NEWBY

About Fruit-Growing

RAYMOND WHEELER

Scottish Notes

THEAGES

Poem: The Tree

P. CALVER

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